

Serial No. 10/087,915
July 27, 2004
Reply to the Office Action dated April 14, 2004
Page 7 of 8

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-4, 6-8, 12 and 18-27 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants AMEND claims 2-4, 6-8, 12 and 18-27 and CANCEL claims 5 and 10.

Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 22 and 27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 2, 4-8, 10, 12, 18-20 and 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Sano (5,190,892) and Dohya (4,665,468). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Sano and Dohya, and further in view of Kitamura et al. (5,480,048). Claims 21 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Sano and Dohya, and further in view of JP 61-091998.

Applicants have amended allowable claims 22 and 27 to be in independent form including all of the features of base claims 5 and 10, respectively, canceled claims 5 and 10, and amended claims 2-4, 6-8, 12 and 18-21 and 23-26 to depend on allowable claims 22 and 27. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 2, 4-8, 10, 12, 18-20 and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Sano (5,190,892) and Dohya (4,665,468), claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Sano and Dohya, and further in view of Kitamura et al. (5,480,048), and claims 21 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Sano and Dohya, and further in view of JP 61-091998 are moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 22 and 27 are allowable. Claims 2-4, 6-8, 12 and 18-21 and 23-26 depend upon claims 22 and 27, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claims

Serial No. 10/087,915
July 27, 2004
Reply to the Office Action dated April 14, 2004
Page 8 of 8

22 and 27 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition the Commissioner for a One-month extension of time, extending to August 14, 2004, the period for response to the Office Action dated April 14, 2004.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 27, 2004


Attorneys for Applicants

Joseph R. Keating
Registration No. 37,368

Christopher A. Bennett
Registration No. 46,710

KEATING & BENNETT LLP
10400 Eaton Place, Suite 312
Fairfax, VA 22030
Telephone: (703) 385-5200
Facsimile: (703) 385-5080